

Homeland security would probably be improved if the Morse code requirements were removed for licensing and use of the HF bands. Presently the non-code licensees are virtually limited for practical purposes to line-of-sight communications and use of repeaters. But in cases of wide spread natural disasters and serious terrorist attacks, repeaters may be inoperative and line-of-sight communications above 50 MHz is limited. The HF bands are needed to reliably reach hundreds, even thousands of miles, out of and into of disaster areas. If the code requirement was dropped, thousands of new HF licensees would purchase their own HF equipment and become trained and proficient in using the HF bands. A considerable number of HF operators could and would provide for back-up power for their emergency operations. Many would also be able to operate from motor vehicles which provide dispersion of resources and difficulty for anyone trying to stop such emergency communications. I urge the dropping of the code requirement for HF licensing and operations.